

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: INC PROGRAM - FY 1980 ZZB GUIDELINES

REF: STATE 124006, 106703, CARACAS 4312

1. AS EXPLAINED IN CARACAS REFTTEL, WE ARE STILL
AWAITING THE GOV RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD
THE FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE NEW U.S.-
VENEZUELAN MIXED COMMISSION. THUS WE ARE NOT IN A
POSITION TO ASSESS IN ANY BUT THE MOST TENTATIVE
MANNER AREAS IN WHICH WE WOULD WANT TO PARTICIPATE
INF FUTURE INC-FUNDED PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, UNDERSTAND-
ING THAT SOME SUBMISSION MUST BE MADE NOW IF WE ARE
NOT TO LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUALIFY FOR POSSIBLE
FY 1980 FUNDING, THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS OUR BEST
ESTIMATE.

2. VENEZUELA DOES NOT PRODUCE OPIUM POPPIES NOR
COCA, AND MARIJUANA CULTIVATION IS MINIMAL.
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT REFINING
ACTIVITY HERE. GOV AUTHORITIES DO NOT CONSIDER THEIR
LOCAL USAGE PROBLEM AS MAJOR. VENEZUELA HAS NOT BEEN
ON THE PRINCIPAL TRANSIT ROUTES FROM L.A. TO THE U.S.,
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ALTHOUGH SOME SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES HAVE TAKEN PLACE HERE.
ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE DIVERTED THROUGH
VENEZUELA IF AND WHEN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS
OF THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT BEGIN TO BEAR FRUIT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT SOME PARTICIPATION IN INC-FUNDED
ACTIVITIES IN FY 1980 WOULD BE BOTH DESIRABLE AND

FEASIBLE. GIVEN THE ATTITUDE OF GOV AUTHORITIES THAT THE OVERALL PROBLEM HERE IS FAIRLY MILD, HOWEVER, WE DOUBT THAT A FULL FLEDGED COUNTRY PROGRAM WOULD BE THE BEST FORM FOR THIS PARTICIPATION TO TAKE. WE ARE BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT THE GOVE HAS THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY, OR WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER THE COOPERATION, THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HELP LAUNCH AN AMBITIOUS COUNTRY PROGRAM. ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL OF THE VENEZUELAN AGENCIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DRUG FIELD WITH WHOM WE DEAL ARE DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN TRAINING. FOR EXAMPLE, A RECENT DEA IN-COUNTRY COURSE ATTRACTED 55 PARTICIPANTS, AND MORE WOULD HAVE ATTENDED HAD THERE BEEN ENOUGH SPACE. THE NATIONAL GUARD (WHICH HAS BORDER PATROL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION DUTIES IN RURAL AREAS) RECENTLY INVITED CARACAS DEA AGENTS TO TRAVEL TO GUARD POSTS IN WESTERN VENEZUELA ALONG THE COLOMBIAN BORDER TO OBSERVE AND ADVISE ON TRAINING. IN VIEW OF THESE AND OTHER EXAMPLES, WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN BEFORE WE DETERMINE MUTUALLY AGREED AREAS OF COOPERATION THROUGH MEETINGS OF THE MIXED COMMISSION WE CAN SAFELY PREDICT THAT TRAINING WILL BE DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE ACTIVITY. THIS TRAINING WOULD BE JUSTIFIABLE IN UP-GRADING THE GOV'S PRESENT NARCOTICS CAPABILITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT AREAS. IT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE CURRENT THREAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVEN ASSUMING IT IS AS MINOR AS THEY BELIEVE IT TO BE. IN ADDITION, THROUGH IMPORVED INTELLIGENCE, VENEZUELAN AGENICES COULD OBTAIN A MORE ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE DRUG PROBLME AND PARTICULARLY TO DETECT MORE SERIOUS CHANGES WHICH MAY RESULT IN VENEZUELA FROM SUCCESSFUL CONTROL MEASURES IN COLOMBIA.

4. BASED ON THE FOREGOING RATIONALE, WE WOULD THEREFORE TENTATIVELY REQUEST FUNDING FOR FY 1980 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FOR TRAINING AND RELATED COSTS FOR TRAVEL, MATERIALS, PER DIEM, ETC. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD BE PROCESSED BY PRESENTLY ASSIGNED STAFF HERE AND WOULD NOT REQUIRE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN ANY AREAS.

5. THE AMBASSADOR HAS EXAMINED THIS PROPOSAL AND FINDS IT CONSISTENT WITH OUT PURSUIT OF OBJECTIVE FIVE OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES APPROVED FOR VENEZUELA (STATE 36536), STIMULATION OF INCREASED VENEZUELAN COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES (CONTROL OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING). HE CONCURS THAT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ZBB EXERCISE, THE PROPOSED

INC FUNDING SHOULD BE LIMITED AT THIS POINT TO
TRAINING. THIS FUNDING, IF APPROVED, WOULD NOT RPT
NOT BE AMONG THE LOWEST TEN PERCENT OF ACTIVITES
CARRIED ON BY USG AGENCIES HERE.
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